THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) No, Sir,

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Quality of foodgrains supplied under Public Distribution System

*11. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the sub-standard foodgrains being supplied under the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Food Corporation of India issues rice and wheat of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) within the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act standards to state Governments and UT Administrations. Procurement of rice and wheat is made at various producing areas in the country. Thus, slight variation within the specified standards in the quality of the foodgrains released simultaneously from different godowns could not be altogether ruled out.

The distribution of rice and wheat to the consumers through the Fair Price shops (FPS) is administered by the State Governments and UT Administrations. The Central Government has requested, from time to time, the State Governments/UT Administrations to tighten supervision and inspection arrangements to ensure that proper quality of wheat and rice reaches the consumers.

[*English*]

Use of Combined Brand Name

*12. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indian manufacturers, who are having foreign collaborations, are using the combined brand names/ hybrid names like Hero-Honda, Maruti-Suzuki, DCM-Toyota, Swaraj Mazda, Allwyn Nissan/Mahindra Nissan etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the use of such combined brand names is affecting the sales of indigenous manufacturers including the Public Sector Units; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to ban the use of such combined brand names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir,

(c) There is no evidence to this effect.

(d) No, Sir.

Protection for BIDI Workers

*13. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make a special law for the protection of labour involved in Bidi industry in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to include the bidi workers under the contract labour system;

(c) whether the Government also pro-